Information

Recorded water levels in this bulletin are derived from a representative network of water level gages on each lake (see cover map). Providers of these data are the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Ocean Service, and the Marine Environmental Data Service, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The Detroit District, Corps of Engineers and Environment Canada derive historic and projected lake levels under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data.

This bulletin is produced monthly as a public service. Tables of possible storm-induced rises at key locations on the Great Lakes are available on request. The Corps also publishes the "Great Lakes, Connecting Channels and St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Depths," twice monthly, which provides a forecast of depths in the connecting rivers between the Great Lakes and the International Section of the St. Lawrence River. These publications can be obtained free of charge by writing to the address shown on the front cover, or by calling (313) 226-6441. Notices of change of address should include the name of the publication(s). The Internet address **http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/glhh** contains this information on the Internet.

Great Lakes Basin Hydrology
October 2008

The Lake Superior and Lake Michigan-Huron basins saw below average precipitation this October while Lakes Erie and Ontario received near average precipitation. As a whole, the Great Lakes basin experienced below average precipitation this past month. During the past year, Lake Superior has received near average precipitation while Lakes Michigan-Huron, Erie and Ontario have received slightly above average precipitation. The net supply of water to the Lake Superior and Michigan-Huron basins were very much below their respective October averages. Lake Erie received below its average supply of water while Lake Ontario received an above average net supply of water. The tables below list October precipitation and water supply information for all Great Lakes basins.

During the month of October, Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and St. Clair were lower than their respective long-term averages (1918-2007) by 8, 15 and 6 inches. Lake Erie was 2 inches below its long term average while Lake Ontario was near its respective long-term average.

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)

BASIN	October				12-Month Comparison			
	2008	Average (1900-1999)	Diff.	% of Average	Last 12 months	Average (1900-1999)	Diff.	% of Average
Superior	1.98	2.79	-0.81	71	28.78	30.52	-1.74	94
Michigan-Huron	2.08	2.84	-0.76	73	35.70	32.18	3.52	111
Erie	2.58	2.74	-0.16	94	40.56	35.04	5.52	116
Ontario	3.13	3.04	0.09	103	41.88	35.35	6.53	118
Great Lakes	2.25	2.83	-0.58	80	35.61	32.42	3.19	110

LAKE	October WATER SUPPLIES[2] (cfs)		October OUTFLOW[3] (cfs)	
	2008	Average[5] (1900-1999)	2008	Average[4] (1900-1999)
Superior	-32,000	39,000	72,000	81,000
Michigan-Huron	-103,000	2,000	171,000	192,000
Erie	-35,000	-23,000	192,000	199,000
Ontario	18,000	7,000	254,000	243,000

Notes: Values (excluding averages) are based on preliminary computations; cfs denotes cubic feet per second.
[1] Estimated
[2] Negative water supply denotes evaporation from lake exceeded runoff from local basin.
[3] Does not include diversions.
[4] Niagara and St Lawrence rivers average outflows are based on period of record 1900-1989 and 1900-2006, respectively
[5] Lakes Erie and Ontario average water supplies based on 1900-1989